

Delaware River Coordinator

Fact Sheet

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D-DE)
Senator Thomas R. Carper (D-DE)
Rep. Michael N. Castle (R-at large)

Senator Jon Corzine (D-NJ)
Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)
1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 12th districts

Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY)
Senator Hillary R. Clinton (D-NY)
20th, 23rd districts

Senator Arlen Specter (R)
Senator Rick Santorum (R)
1st, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 13th, 15th districts

Contact

Dr. Jed Brown, Project Leader
Delaware River Coordinator
2610 Whitehall Neck Road
Smyrna, DE 19977
Phone: 302/653 9152
Fax: 302/653 9421
TDD: 800/877 8339
E-mail: jed_brown@fws.gov

Purpose

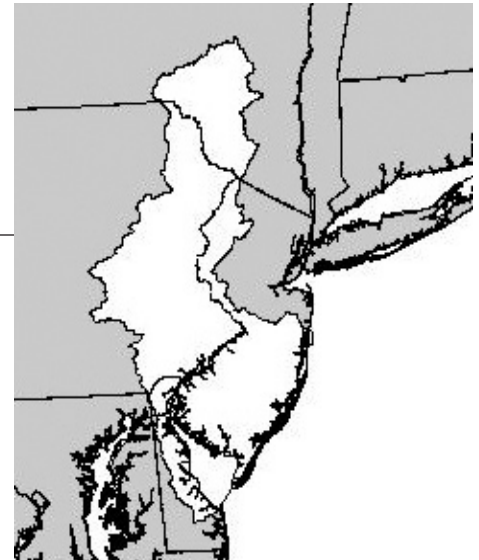
The Delaware River Coordinator works with the states of Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania and the National Marine Fisheries Service through the Delaware River Fisheries Cooperative to protect, restore and enhance fishery and aquatic resources in the Delaware River basin, an area covering nearly 13,000 square miles. Significant aquatic resources in the basin include American shad, striped bass, American eel, river herring, Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, oyster and horseshoe crab.

Several laws and related authorities guide this work:

Anadromous Fish Conservation Act
Atlantic Coast Fisheries Cooperative Management Act
Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act
Coastal Zone Management Act
Endangered Species Act
Estuary Protection Act
Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments
Fish and Wildlife Act
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act
North American Wetlands Conservation Act
Oil Pollution Act
Sikes Act

Management Activities

- Coordinate and prepare the Cooperative's annual American shad report to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and compile, analyze and review monitoring data from each partner state (DE, NJ, NY, PA).
- Serve as service representative on ASMFC habitat and Atlantic sturgeon and technical committees to assist states and to monitor compliance requirements of Atlantic coast-wide fishery management plan for these species.
- Conduct annual hydroacoustic survey to determine population of adult shad migrating upriver to spawn.
- Work with partner states to update the Delaware fish passageway plan and identify critical fish passage projects for the anadromous fishes within the basin.
- In 2002 the Cooperative conducted a comprehensive recreational angling creel survey; the final report was completed in 2003.



Highlights

After 30 years of river cleanup and other recovery efforts, American shad populations are increasing in the Delaware and Lehigh rivers.

Striped bass populations are on the rise as a result of improved water quality and coast-wide harvest restrictions.

Issues

Delaware Bay's horseshoe crab population, the largest in the world, is threatened by habitat loss, historical overfishing and human disturbance.

Atlantic sturgeon populations are severely depressed and a harvest moratorium is in effect. In 2004, research will be conducted to determine current population status.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
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